

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-10 SCCT-02 OC-06 CCO-00

SIL-01 LAB-06 AID-20 PC-10 IO-14 DRC-01 SCS-03 SCA-01

/174 W

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P R 221510Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TORUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7739

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1995

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ELAB SGEN ET

SUBJ: IEG REACTS TO CIVIL UNREST: ADDIS UNDER CONTROL

REF: ADDIS 1938

1. SUMMARY. ARMY AND POLICE HAVE ESSENTIALLY RESTORED ORDER IN ADDIS. IEG HAS ANNOUNCED POSTPONEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ED. SECTOR REVIEW PROPOSALS AND CRACKDOWN ON RIOTERS. MILITARY, GASOLINE PRICE, LABOR AND OTHER PROBLEMS REMAIN UNRESOLVED.

2. IN REACTION TO PUBLIC DISORDERS OF FEB. 21, GOVERNMENT BROUGHT IN ARMY TROOPS LATE SAME AFTERNOON. EVENING NORMALLY BUSY ADDIS STREETS AND COFFEE HOUSES EMPTY. LOCAL TV ON FEB. 21, RADIO AND AMHARIC PRESS FEB. 22, CARRIED ANNOUNCEMENT FROM MIN. INTERIOR THAT PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES GIVEN AUTHORITY TO DO WHATEVER NECESSARY TO RESTORE PUBLIC ORDER. ANNOUNCEMENT REFERRED TO RIOTS  
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IN CITY AND TOLD PARENTS TO KEEP CHILDREN HOME.

3. ON FEB. 22 ADDIS PATROLLED BY JOINT POLICE/ARMY FORCES, WHICH APPEAR EFFECTIVE AND WELL-DISCIPLINED. CITY UNDER CONTROL WITH ONLY SCATTERED INCIDENTS, E.G. STONING OF TRAIN AND VEHICLES ON OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN AND DAMAGE TO INTER ALIA EMBOFF'S CAR AT NOON IN TOWN. POLICE CONTINUE ARRESTING STUDENTS AND OTHERS. AT FEB. 22 PRESS CONFERENCE, MIN. INFO SAID SITUATION UNDER CONTROL AND RETURNING TO NORMAL. HE CLAIMED NO MORE THEN TWO OR THREE KILLED AND RELATIVELY FEW ARRESTED.

4. MIN. EDUCATION STATED IN PUBLIC RELEASE THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF ED. SECTOR REVIEW (ESR) PROPOSALS "POSTPONED" UNTIL ESR EXPLAINED TO PEOPLE. (IEG LAST WEEK BEGAN BELATED CAMPAIGN EXPLAIN VALUE OF ESR (SEE TOAID A-153 OF 10/26/72), AND WE UNDERSTAND FROM WELL-PLACED SOURCE THAT TENOR DISCUSSION IN COUNCIL MINISTERS FEB. 21 REMAINS TO PROCEED WITH ESR AFTER COOLING OFF PERIOD AND WITH SOME MINOR ADJUSTMENTS OTHER THAN SALARY, WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE RAISED. WE UNCERTAIN AT THIS TIME WHETHER TEACHERS' DEMAND FOR SALARY INCREASE WILL BE HONORED (ADDIS 1834) OR WHETHER TEACHERS WILL NOW RETURN TO CLASSROOMS.

5. RE TRANSPORT PROBLEMS AND OPPOSITION TO INCREASED GASOLINE PRICES, WE UNDERSTAND COUNCIL MINISTERS WHCP CONSIDER NEGOTIATIONS ON POSSIBLE REDUCTION GASOLINE PRICES OR SYSTEM OF SUBSIDIES ONCE ORDER RESTORED. SEVERAL HUNDRED TAXI DRIVERS WERE ARRESTED WHILE THEY MET ON EVENING FEB. 21 TO PROTEST EARLIER ARREST SOME OF THEIR COLLEAGUES. TAXI DRIVERS EXPECTED BE RELEASED NEXT WEEK. CITY BUSES BEGINNING RESUME OPERATIONS AFTERNOON OF FEB. 22.

6. IEG REPORTEDLY STILL CONSIDERING MILITARY AND POLICE GRIEVANCES AND DEMANDS FOR HIGHER PAY.

7. POTENTIAL FOR LABOR UNREST CONTINUES. (TEXTILE WORKERS AT NEARBY FACTORY WENT ON STRIKE YESTERDAY AND MANY OTHER CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES.)

8. COMMUNICATION WITH COUNTRYSIDE ALWAYS DIFFICULT, ESPECIALLY IN TIMES OF UNREST, BUT WE HAVE HEARD NO RPT NO REPORTS OF ANY CONFIDENTIAL

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SERIOUS OUTBREAKS PUBLIC DISORDER UPCOUNTRY IN PAST 24 HOURS. WE KNOW OF NO RPT NO AMERICAN CASUALTIES.

9. COMMENT: WHILE SITUATION IN ADDIS SEEMS UNDER CONTROL, UNDERLYING TENSION REMAINS AND IEG STILL FACED WITH SERIOUS UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS RESTORATION OF CONFIDENCE. WYMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, WAGES, GASOLINE, CIVIL DISORDERS, TEACHERS, LABOR STRIKES, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, DEATHS, POLICE FORCES, ARRESTS, PRICES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 FEB 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 114  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** ADDIS 1938  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 AUG 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** IEG REACTS TO CIVIL UNREST: ADDIS UNDER CONTROL  
**TAGS:** PINS, ELAB, SGEN, ET  
**To:** n/a  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005